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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/913,327	08/13/2001	Yukio Yasuda		7080

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EXAMINER	
HUNTSINGER, PETER K	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2625	

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/913,327	YASUDA, YUKIO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Peter K. Huntsinger	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 March 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/30/06 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 10 and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities: On lines 3 of the claims the word lease should be changed to least. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 11, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hunt, Jr. et al. Patent 5,003,496.

Referring to claim 11, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose a printing system comprising; a plurality of unit controllers (separate tint generators of Fig. 15, col. 10, lines 15-19); and a server controller for managing said plurality of unit controllers (ICE 16 of Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 12-17), wherein said server controller has command means for sending the plurality of unit controllers a command to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data among the plurality of unit controllers and the server controller (col. 10, lines 21-24), the process including separation of digital data of objective matter to be printed into a plurality of color components (col. 10, lines 43-50), and rasterization of each color component of the digital data (col. 12, lines 48-54), and each of said plurality of unit controllers has creation means for performing the process of creating the plurality of separate plate data to create at least one separate plate data among said plurality of separate plate data, based on the command from said command means data (col. 10, lines 21-24), the creation means at least performing the rasterization of at least one color component of the digital data (304 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 33-48) (208 of Fig. 14, col. 9, lines 64-67) after the separation of the digital data (302 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 30-33).

Referring to claim 16, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose wherein each unit controller performs the separation of the digital data into the plurality of color components for the rastertization (302 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 30-33).

Referring to claims 17 and 19, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose a server controller (ICE 16 of Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 12-17) in a printing system including a plurality of unit controllers (separate tint generators of Fig. 15, col. 10, lines 15-19), comprising; command generation means for generating a command to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data among the plurality of unit controllers and server controller (col. 10, lines 21-24), said process including separation of digital data of objective matter to be printed into a plurality of color components (302 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 30-33), and rasterization of each color component of digital data (col. 12, lines 48-54); and transmission means transmitting said command to said plurality of unit controllers (col. 10, lines 21-24).

Referring to claim 20, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose wherein the creation means is configured for separating the digital data into a plurality of color components (302 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 30-33) before the rasterizing of each at least one color component of the digital data (304 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 33-48) (208 of Fig. 14, col. 9, lines 64-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt, Jr. et al. Patent 5,003,496, and further in view of Fuller Patent 4,809,164.

Referring to claim 1, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose a printing system performing printing on the basis of digital data, comprising: a plurality of unit controllers (separate tint generators of Fig. 15, col. 10, lines 15-19); and a server controller managing said plurality of unit controllers (ICE 16 of Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 12-17); wherein said server controller has command means commanding the plurality of unit controllers to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data (col. 10, lines 21-24), the process including rasterization of digital data of objective matter to be printed (col. 12, lines 48-54), each of said plurality of unit controllers has separate plate data creation means creating at least one separate plate data among said plurality of separate plate data from the digital data of said objective matter to be printed on the basis of the command by said command means (col. 10, lines 43-50). Hunt, Jr. et al. do not disclose expressly a unit controller notifying a server controller when it is ready to process data. Fuller disclose in response to an inquiry by a server controller, each of said plurality of unit controllers notifies said server controller whether preparation is completed, and said server controller sends each of said plurality of unit controllers a command to on condition that said preparation is completed (col. 4-5, lines 53-68, 1-2). Hunt, Jr. et al. and Fuller are combinable because they are from the

same field of electronic data processing systems. At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to poll controllers to determine if they are ready to process data. The motivation for doing so would have been to send data to controllers when they are capable of processing that data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fuller with Hunt, Jr. et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Referring to claims 5 and 6, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose a server controller (ICE 16 of Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 12-17) in a printing system performing printing on the basis of digital data, comprising; command generation means generating a command to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data between a plurality of unit controllers (col. 10, lines 21-24), said process including rasterization of each color component of digital data of objective matter to be printed (col. 12, lines 48-54); and transmission means transmitting said command to said plurality of unit controllers (col. 10, lines 43-50). Hunt, Jr. et al. do not disclose expressly a unit controller notifying a server controller when it is ready to process data. Fuller disclose a server controller sends each of a plurality of unit controllers an inquiry as to whether preparation for creation of separate plate data is completed, and sends each of said plurality of unit controllers an instruction to create separate plate data on condition that a reply notifying completion of said preparation is received (col. 4-5, lines 53-68, 1-2). Hunt, Jr. et al. and Fuller are combinable because they are from the same field of electronic data processing systems. At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to poll controllers to determine if

they are ready to process data. The motivation for doing so would have been to send data to controllers when they are capable of processing that data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fuller with Hunt, Jr. et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claims 5 and 6.

Referring to claim 8, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose wherein the process of creating the plurality of separate plate data includes separation of the digital data into a plurality of color components by the plurality of unit controllers (302 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 30-33) before the rasterization of each color component of the digital data is performed (304 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 33-48) (208 of Fig. 14, col. 9, lines 64-67).

Referring to claim 10, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose wherein separate plate data creation means is configured for separating the digital data into a plurality of color components (302 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 30-33) before the rasterizing of each at least one color component of the digital data (304 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 33-48) (208 of Fig. 14, col. 9, lines 64-67).

8. Claims 2-4 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt, Jr. et al. Patent 5,003,496 and Fuller Patent 4,809,164 as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Koshi et al. Patent 5,821,969.

Referring to claims 2 and 12, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose separating color components before printing but do not disclose expressly printing units

corresponding to the unit controllers. Koshi et al. disclose a plurality of printing units corresponding to a plurality of unit controllers respectively, wherein each of said plurality of unit controllers transfers, with respect to the corresponding printing unit, at least one separate plate data whose printing output is taken charge of in said printing unit (recorders 7Y, 7M, 7C, and 7K of Fig. 1, col. 7-8, lines 62-67, 1-4). Hunt, Jr. et al. and Koshi et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of printing systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a plurality of printing units with the system of Hunt, Jr. et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to improve the speed of printing color images. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Koshi et al. with Hunt, Jr. et al. and Fuller to obtain the invention as specified in claims 2 and 12.

Referring to claims 3 and 13, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose wherein said server controller has separate plate data storage means storing said plurality of separate plate data created in said plurality of unit controllers (col. 10, lines 15-19). Koshi et al. disclose wherein each of said unit controllers transfers the separate plate data stored in said separate plate data storage means of said server controller to said printing unit provided in correspondence to each unit controller (col. 7-8, lines 62-67, 1-4).

Referring to claim 4, Fuller discloses wherein said server controller has monitoring means monitoring work contents of each of said plurality of unit controllers (col. 4-5, lines 53-68, 1-2).

Referring to claim 14, Hunt, Jr. et al. do not disclose expressly said server controller monitoring the unit controllers. Fuller disclose a server controller has monitoring means for monitoring work contents of each of said plurality of unit controllers (col. 4-5, lines 53-68, 1-2). Hunt, Jr. et al. and Fuller are combinable because they are from the same field of electronic data processing systems. At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a server controller to monitor the work of unit controllers. The motivation for doing so would have been to send data to controllers when they are capable of processing that data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fuller with Hunt, Jr. et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 14.

9. Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt, Jr. et al. Patent 5,003,496 and Fuller Patent 4,809,164 as applied to claims 1 and 5 above, and further in view of well known prior art.

Referring to claims 7 and 9, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose separation of the digital data into a plurality of color components (302 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 30-33) before rasterization of each color component of digital data is performed by the plurality of unit controllers (304 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 33-48) (208 of Fig. 14, col. 9, lines 64-67). Hunt, Jr. et al. do not disclose expressly the separation of color components by the server controller. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious in the art for a microprocessor to separate color components (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to take

advantage of the greater processing capabilities of the microprocessor than the capabilities the unit controllers.

10. Claims 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt, Jr. et al. Patent 5,003,496 as applied to claims 11 and 17 above, and further in view of well known prior art.

Referring to claims 15 and 18, Hunt, Jr. et al. disclose separation of the digital data into a plurality of color components (302 of Fig. 16, col. 10, lines 30-33) but do not disclose expressly the separation of color components by the server controller. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious in the art for a microprocessor to separate color components (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to take advantage of the greater processing capabilities of the microprocessor than the capabilities the unit controllers.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter K. Huntsinger whose telephone number is (571)272-7435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on (571)272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PKH

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